

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 802 - HB 1265

March 24, 2015

SUMMARY OF BILL: Prohibits the teacher and administrator evaluation rubrics employed by local education agencies (LEAs) from using a numerical system to evaluate teacher and principal performance. Requires performance evaluations to be placed into the three groups: “exceeds expectations”, “meets expectations”, or “below expectations”. Makes various other changes to Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, to implement these changes.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$332,300/One-Time

Other Fiscal Impact – It is unclear whether revising the state’s current evaluation methodology will place federal funding at risk. The state’s No Child Left Behind (NCLB) waiver contains provisions that commit the state to our current system. The decision to withhold federal funding would be at the discretion of the U.S Department of Education.

Assumptions:

- Currently, Tennessee uses a five-point grading scale for teacher and administrator evaluations.
- The state will modify existing resources to move to a three-point grading scale for teacher and administrator evaluations.
- Based on information from the Department of Education, the one-time increase in state expenditures in FY15-16 to updating all resources relative to the teacher and administrator evaluations’ grading scale is estimated to be \$332,250. This includes professional development costs of \$155,000 to train teachers on the new grading scale; \$50,000 to update and reprint all printed resources; \$17,250 to update all online and video library resources relative to teacher and administrator evaluations; \$100,000 to reconfigure the state’s data system and score calculation model; and \$10,000 to revise the state’s evaluator certification test.
- A central component of the state’s statutory accountability system and NCLB waiver is Tennessee’s teacher and administrator evaluation model. It is unclear whether the state would lose any federal funding as a result of this methodology being changed. The state received over one billion in federal funding in FY14-15.

CERTIFICATION:

SB 802 - HB 1265

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeffrey L. Spalding". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeffrey L. Spalding, Executive Director

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